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February 1993

Profile

a guide to military lifestyles



Corps Crew Chief

HOLLYWOOD AND THE MILITARY CONNECTION



**PLUS: HIGH SCHOOL IN EUROPE,
ARMY COMBAT ENGINEERS,
NAVY LEGALMEN AND AN AIR FORCE OFFICER PROFILE**

F.Y.I.

For Your Information

If you're a regular PROFILE reader, you'll notice this issue is thinner than most. Budget cuts have forced us to decrease from 24 to 16 pages for the next three issues. That's the bad news. The good news is we've got some great stories on tap, including those in this issue.

Our lead story is on how the entertainment industry and the military work together to bring such flicks as *Top Gun*, *Patriot Games* and *Flight of the Intruder* to the screen. The story, written by former Marine Corps staffer Corporal Karl Ulrich, who recently left the service, is the first of a series of articles on Hollywood and the military.

Our other feature is written by a teenager who attends school at a military base in Italy. Blake Roberts has homework, plays sports and does the things most high school students in America do. But, with Venice around the corner, he sees things most people only read about.

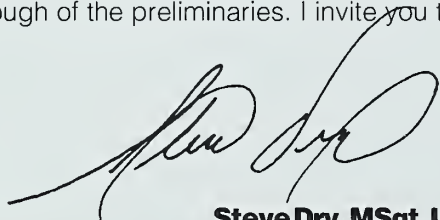
And, of course, we have several career profiles.

Now, for a couple of announcements.

The Navy is offering a super deal to folks interested in submarine duty. The December 1992 edition of ALL HANDS, the official magazine of the Navy, is about the sub force. For a free copy, send your full name and mailing address to: Commander; ATTN: N02P; Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; 7958 Blandy Rd.; Norfolk, Va. 23511-2492.

The Navy and Marine Corps World War II Commemoration Committee also has a special deal for high schools that establish programs to commemorate World War II. Schools that commemorate three events each year get a certificate, Defense Department recognition and an official flag. For further details, write to: Navy and Marine Corps WW II Commemoration Committee; Navy Office of Information (CHINFO); Pentagon, Rm 2E352; Washington, D.C. 20350-1200.

Enough of the preliminaries. I invite you to read on!



Steve Dry, MSgt, USAF
Managing Editor

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Sean Connery, Alec Baldwin and Scott Glenn in a scene from *The Hunt for Red October*, a film made with support from the U.S. Navy.

Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures Corporation

Sergeant Travis Clement is one of the elite who is qualified to wear the gold wings of a Marine Corps aircrew member. Clement is a crew chief on a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter.

Photo by Sergeant Jeff Landis

Profile

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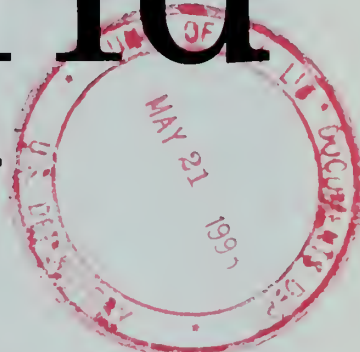
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When Hollywood meets the military, the result is ...

'Reel' World Reality



The deafening roar of an F-18 fighter jet pulsates over a blaring rock-n-roll guitar as Navy pilots Maverick and Goose are catapulted off an aircraft carrier and into "The Danger Zone."

The scene is from the movie *Top Gun*, a box office smash that grossed more than \$79 million and influenced more than a few people to enlist in the Navy.

There may be no business like show business. But, whether you're trying to sell tickets or project a slice of reality, one thing is certain — image is everything.

For the motion picture industry, image is something to project. For the U.S. Armed Forces, image is something to protect. Combine the two and the result is such hits as *The Hunt for Red October*, *Flight of the Intruder*

and *The Right Stuff*. What all these movies have in common is that they wouldn't have been possible without the help of the U.S. military's motion picture liaison offices.

Located on the outskirts of Hollywood, Calif., the liaison offices assist the television and movie industries with the production of military-related films, shows and documentaries. Each branch of service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force) has a liaison office that is responsible for such things as answering questions, reviewing scripts and providing technical advice. Most of all, the liaison offices exist to ensure reality is reflected in the world of make believe.

"One of the reasons military films are so popular is

Sean Connery played the part of Soviet submarine commander Marko Ramius in *The Hunt for Red October*, a film made with U.S. Navy support.



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures Corporation

Story by
former staffer
Karl C. Ulrich

that they come with their own built-in audience, an audience that is comprised of people who are in the military, were in the military, or, at least, knew someone in the military," said Charles Davis, chief motion picture liaison for the Air Force. "So, producers are usually interested in making their pictures as realistic as possible."

Cooperation between Hollywood and the military has been going on for decades. The first film to receive official military support was the Howard Hawks production, *Wings*, which won an Oscar for Best Picture in 1929.

What does the military get out of the deal?

Said Davis: "We know that if you really want to get your message across, the most effective way to reach someone is through film. So, if we can have a small say about what goes into today's films, we can give the American people a better understanding of our missions. Don't forget, these are the people

who pay taxes, who write letters to their congressmen and who support our national defense objectives."

Whether or not a film receives military support depends on several things. First of all, there must be some benefit to the military, said Maj. David Georgi, motion picture liaison for the Army.

Factors such as the movie's story line, content and portrayal of U.S. Armed Forces are also looked at closely by the liaison offices.

"We make sure the image they portray is accurate," said Lieutenant Lydia Zeller, a Hollywood liaison officer for the Navy. "We don't want every film out there to be a recruiting film, but we want to make sure they give a credible portrayal of life in the military."

Top Gun and *The Hunt For Red October* are two films that were made with Navy support.

They both had good story lines and benefited the Department of Defense, Zeller said.

In some cases, a film maker may

only need support in the form of someone who can give technical assistance on the wear of the uniform. In other cases, the film maker may request the use of ships, aircraft or military bases.

Zeller said, "We can authorize the use of ships, aircraft and even bases, as long as it doesn't infringe on operational readiness."

John Milius, director of *Flight of the Intruder*, said military cooperation is "vital to the production of any military film."

"They made sure everything was done right," said Milius, "and that is extremely important. I think if you're going to do a military movie, it must be done with absolute ruthless authenticity. You're dealing with a special world and you have to be true to that world. If you falter on anything, the whole picture becomes phoney."

"The support we received, on the whole, was just fantastic. They lent us half a squadron of Intruders, a dozen pilots and even an aircraft



Assistant director Jerry Ballew goes over an upcoming scene during the filming of *The Hunt for Red October* as Alec Baldwin looks on.

carrier. There was literally no way we could have done this movie without them."

While military cooperation can greatly assist a film maker, it doesn't mean a director gets something for nothing. Any time a piece of military equipment is used, the production company pays for fuel, maintenance or any damage that might be incurred. For just one of the A-6E Intruders used in *Flight of the Intruder*, Milius' staff had to pay the Navy about \$2,000 for every hour of flight, just to cover fuel costs. The Navy benefited because pilots were able to get flight hours at no cost, said Zeller.

"We don't want every film out there to be a recruiting film, but we want to make sure they give a credible portrayal of life in the military."

Georgi said there are several levels of support. "Courtesy assistance," which is a level below "full cooperation," can be anything from providing information by telephone to arranging a visit to a base.

Clear and Present Danger, a film based on Tom Clancy's best seller, is a movie in the works where courtesy assistance is being provided.

"We identified some shortcomings in the script," said Georgi. "The way it is written now some of the Army characters go to Fort Ord (an Army post in California) and recruit Special Operations Forces for state-sponsored assassinations."

"So, we said, 'You want our help? Fine. But ... you're going to have to get away from this bit where the U.S. Army says ... we bless the idea of sending soldiers down to South America to blow away drug smug-



U.S. Marine Corps Photo

Director Michael Lembeck learns about some military radio equipment from technical advisor Major Jerry Broeckert on the set of *Major Dad*.

glers," Georgi said.

Despite the premise, the Army liaison office arranged for one of the writers to visit Fort Ord, see a ranger battalion and go through some of their specialized training.

"We want to see a realistic picture so, even if the changes aren't made, at least their soldiers can still look and act like soldiers for the most part," said Major Violeta Strong, another member of the Army liaison team.

In cases where film projects don't initially receive full support, the producers can adapt the film and re-submit their idea if they want full cooperation.

State-sponsored assassinations may be out, but what about a Marine Corps drill instructor who moonlights as the tooth fairy? The idea wasn't too ridiculous for producer Norman Lear, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger or even the Marine Corps.

"It sounds so crazy you might think our initial reaction would be that we wouldn't have anything to do with it," said Major Jerry Broeckert, Marine Corps movie liaison. "But what we did was take a look at those scenes where he's playing a drill instructor and we made a determination on what benefit there was to the Marine

Corps for supporting the project."

Schwarzenegger has already visited the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, for character research and both Lear and the Marines are hoping the film will be storming the beaches and making a comedy splash at theaters near you in the future.

Comedy is nothing new to Broeckert, who is the technical advisor for the hit sitcom *Major Dad*. But, even in comedy, a Marine has to do things by the book. As Broeckert points out, any character on the sitcom who is portraying a Marine must look and act the way a real Marine would.

"We make sure his uniform looks good enough that he could walk off the set and stand a base commander's inspection," Broeckert said.

Major Dad is currently one of Broeckert's biggest projects and, after four seasons of production, he said he hopes the show will continue to make audiences laugh, while making Americans aware of the Marine Corps and its missions.

With films, TV shows, documentaries and even a few commercials, the military people who act as Hollywood liaisons have some of the busiest jobs around. That goes with the turf when the priority is ensuring accuracy from *real to reel*. ♦

European Adventure

Going to high school a continent away

Editor's Note: Every year, millions of teenagers graduate from high schools throughout the United States. But there are tens of thousands of other American high school students who go through graduation ceremonies in places as far away as Japan, England, Germany or any of the 15 other countries where there are Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS). DoDDS provides an education from kindergarten through 12th grade to dependents of Defense Department military and civilian people assigned overseas. The student body, which numbers 117,000 students in 224 schools and one community college, is one of the most diverse in the world. The students are typically well-traveled, thanks to the fact that being a military dependent usually means moving to a new location every three or four years. Being an American high school student in a foreign country can be an exciting experience. What follows is one high school senior's story.

By Blake Roberts

As a military "brat," I have had a chance to experience different places and unfamiliar cultures. While most youths have only dreamed about a foreign

country, I've been lucky to have lived in Europe for almost 16 years.

I was born in the United States. My family moved to Wurzburg, Germany, when my father, a military officer, received orders to go there. Europe is where I was raised for the first five years of my life. Attending school for the first time was hard, but being in a military community made school life a little easier. A military community, as I have experienced

Born: Nov. 5, 1974

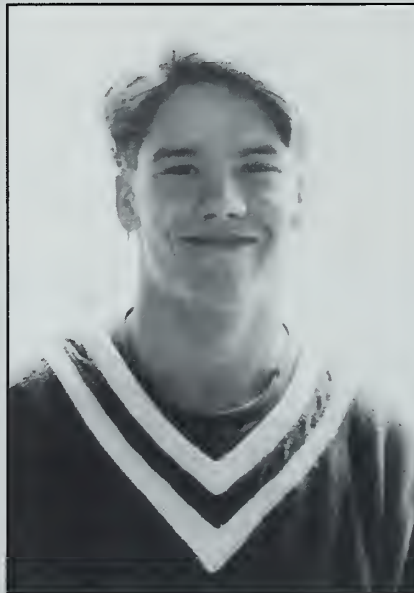
Grade: Senior

School: Vicenza American High School, Vicenza, Italy. Located 40 miles west of Venice, about 300 students attend grades seven through 12.

Interests: Soccer, arguing with friends and spending time with his best friend, Mark, and his girlfriend, Julia.

School activities: Ski club, student council, volleyball, soccer, debate and the school newspaper.

Future plans: To continue his education in the fields of political science or pre-law at either Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., or Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C.



Photos by Fabian Moreno

Blake Roberts

it, is much like a large family; consequently, meeting new people isn't as difficult as some suspect.

During my father's tour of duty, my love for Germany grew. Who, as only a child, can say they saw the great city of Munich, the Eiffel Tower in France and the Berlin Wall? By age seven I had seen it all. Not only was it fascinating, but it was extremely momentous for, as we all know, the Berlin Wall collapsed a decade later.

Finally, it was time for my family to return to the "real world," as so many Americans here refer to the United States. My father's next assignment took us to Oklahoma. The time seemed to fly by. When that tour was finished, we were lucky enough to return to Germany for another four years!

During this tour, we moved to four different communities. The experience was very beneficial; meeting new people and getting involved with a different culture made me realize for the first time how fortunate I was. I have been lucky enough to become acquainted with different kinds of people and a variety of European places. This is what truly sets the military student apart from the majority of American teens -- the intervention of a new environment and an unfamiliar society.

"A military community, as I have experienced it, is much like a large family ... meeting people isn't as difficult as some suspect."

When my father's tour in Germany ended, we moved to Vicenza, Italy, which is where I am now. This move has proven the best one yet! I have seen Italy as most Americans can only envision it. There's Rome and its seven hills, Naples and Pompeii, the great works of Michelangelo and Palladio. And, of course, there's Venice, the famous port city of Italy. I am now in a country which was once an empire, where Roman history originated.

During my four years of high school in Italy, I've traveled



Walking next to the canals running through Venice may be a dream vacation to some. But to students at Vicenza American High School, it's simply one of the benefits that comes with living overseas.

throughout "the boot" on sports trips, field trips and family vacations. These voyages certainly have been learning experiences outside the classroom. To see the Vatican and hear the Pope talk is one of the experiences I've had. I've seen in person what others only get to read about in books. Trips to international schools in Rome and Milan have helped me understand the inhabitants of these sophisticated

communities. Meeting people from a different society makes one realize how similar everyone is. The only thing that truly separates us from others in foreign countries is our languages.

As my time in Italy comes to an end, I will always look back and cherish my years in Europe. The people I've met and places I've seen have made me the person I am today. ♦



St. Mark's Square in Venice is only about a one-hour drive from where Roberts goes to school.

When Sergeant Travis Clement goes for a ride, his vehicle of choice is a \$22 million muscle machine that has a top speed of more than 180 mph.

If it sounds too pricey for a gas guzzler that doesn't even come with a compact disc player, consider the fact that it's 67 feet long and has a maximum weight of 42,000 pounds.

Its other features include the ability to transport Marines and cargo to targets more than 650 miles away, handle mine counter-measures and operate in all kinds of weather.

Clement's ride of choice is a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter, a multi-role aircraft that makes a Lamborghini Diablo seem like a Tinker Toy in comparison.

Clement, a 25 year old from St. Matthews,



Helo A

S.C., is a helicopter crew chief with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, "The Ugly Angels," based at Marine Corps Air Station New River, Jacksonville, N.C.



Sergeant Travis Clement inspects the helicopter's electrical system.

"Flying is a great rush," Clement said. "If you've ever played any sports in high school and you make that good catch, got that free throw or hit that home run ... it's the same feeling. You seem to get it more often, though."

As a crew chief, Clement's job is to know his aircraft — inside and out. He does pre-flight inspections, gives pilot and aircrew briefings, performs troubleshooting and maintenance, handles loading and communications and is also responsible for safety and post-flight inspections. Clement also performs ground handling operations such as giving hand and arm signals to the pilot as the helicopter taxis and ensures the blades are folded or unfolded as needed.

The lives of the aircrew and



A CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter flies a mission off the coast of North Carolina.

Doncho

passengers depend on how well Clement handles those responsibilities.

"You can't imagine the importance," he said. "I guess it's like being a doctor. You take a 19-year-old kid and give him a \$22 million aircraft and it's his; that's a big responsibility."

Clement's trek to becoming a crew chief can be traced back to when he used to watch the television series *Baa, Baa, Black Sheep*, which starred Robert Conrad as heroic Marine Corps aviator "Pappy" Boyington. By the time he was in high school, Clement had made up his mind to join the Marines and work on helicopters.

Following Marine boot camp, Clement went to school to learn how to be a pneumatic hydraulics mechanic. That job involved maintenance of the hydraulics subsystems for the landing gear and flight control systems.

"When I got out onto the flight deck and started working, I'd see guys inspect the helo and then jump aboard for take off," Clement said. "I knew then what I wanted to do — I wanted to be a crew chief."

While attending technical school is the traditional way to become a crew chief, Clement did it by completing a three-month crew chief qualification program during his off-duty time. After qualifying, Clement

received his gold wings. The wings, which designate him as an aircrew member, are worn by only a handful of enlisted people.

"These gold wings are really respected," Clement said. "You know you've earned them."

Shortly after Clement earned his wings, his helo squadron was called into Liberia. Clement spent 98 days in an environment of real fighting and real bullets. The chance to interact with Spanish and West German forces, the camaraderie he had with the Royal Marines and knowing there was a chance he could die at any moment made the experience a "real eye-opener," he said.

Today, Clement is a battle-tested veteran who has a keen appreciation of the importance of his job.

"Your life is riding on the line; you gotta' know what you're doing," he said.

Clement said he plans to "...stick around for as long as they let me.

"When I stop loving it, I'll quit."

Until then, Clement is content to make the sky his highway. ♣

Marine Corps

Crew Chief

Description — Inspects helicopters for flight readiness, coordinates with the pilot and crew and serves as an aircrew member.

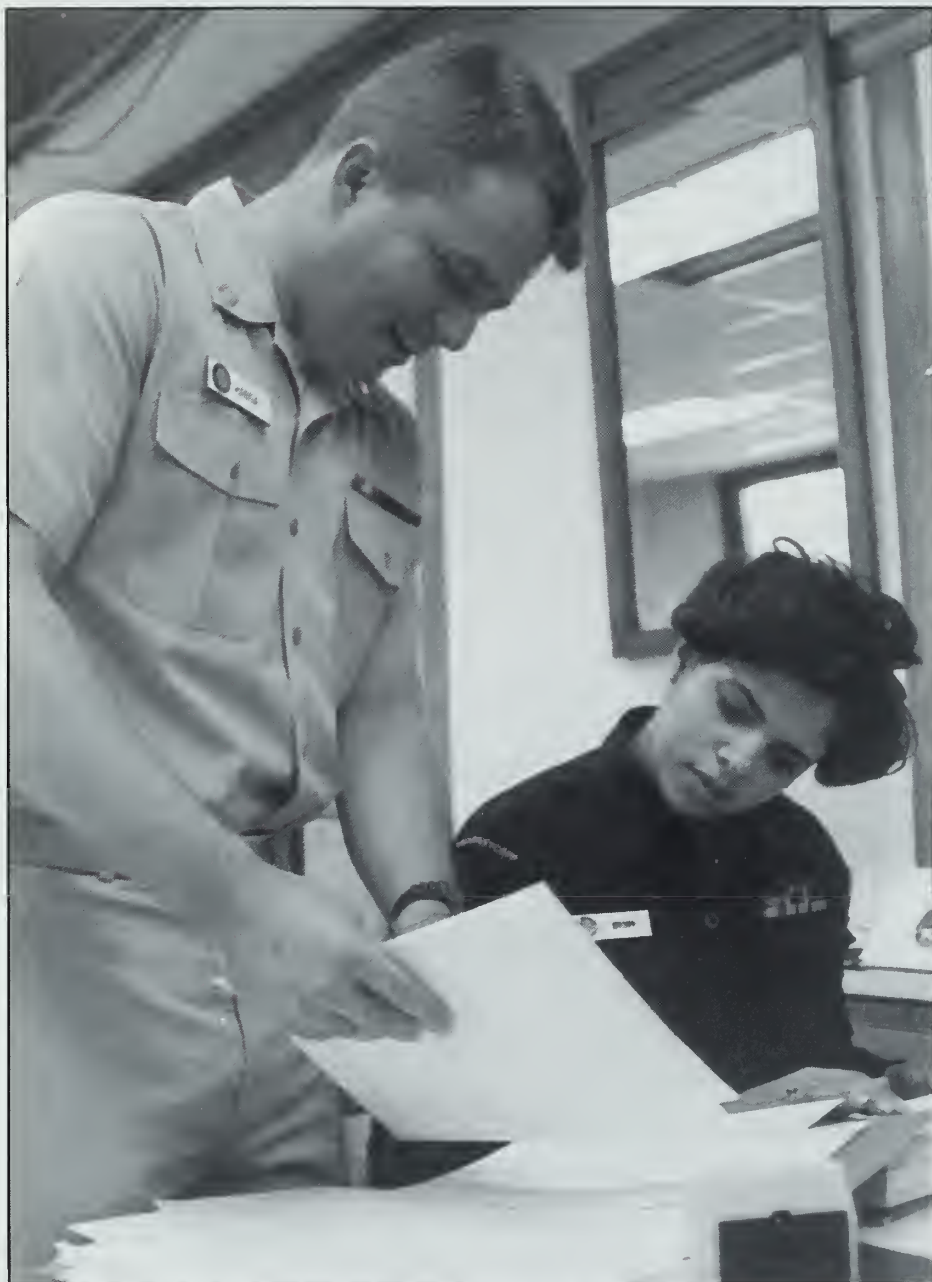
Helpful background skills — Must have personal integrity, maturity and judgment. Math, metal shop, electricity and blueprint reading courses helpful.

Schools — Four weeks of basic helicopter training at Millington, Tenn.; five week swim qualification course at Pensacola, Fla.; 25 weeks of crew chief training at Tustin, Calif.

Related civilian jobs — Aircraft mechanic, electrician or hydraulics specialist, aviation machinist and aircraft instrument technician.

Court reporters see a lot. But what really counts is ...

THE HEARING



Petty Officer Ursula Brown, right, discusses a case with Lieutenant Holiday Hanna, defense counsel with Naval Legal Services, Norfolk, Va.

Story and photos
by Journalist 1st Class
Lorenzo M. Garcia

If you ever had a conversation and wondered whether the other person was really listening, you probably didn't have Petty Officer 2nd Class Ursula Brown as your audience.

When Brown's on the job, she's all ears. That's one of the necessities of being a court reporter.

Brown has to be a good listener. And she has to record things accurately. One of the things that helps her do both is a transcriber.

"It's a delay-talk recorder," the Pikeville, Ky., native said, explaining how the transcriber enables her to record what all participants in the courtroom says during the proceeding.

"They can all be here ready to start court ... but they can't start until this (transcriber) is on," Brown said.

Brown, currently assigned to Naval Legal Services, Norfolk, Va., begins her mornings by checking the docket bill for court assignments. While courts-martial occur only in military courtrooms, Brown said her duties as a court reporter are similar to those of a civilian court reporter.

"We're mainly the judge's right-hand man if he needs anything," she said.

That means once she finds out what court she'll be working, it's her job to set up the courtroom.

That involves everything from ensuring the judge has water to photographing evidence introduced during a court case.

"I have to mark all the exhibits that the trial counsel or defense counsel might bring into evidence," Brown said. "...if there are guns or knives, I have to go take pictures, bring them back up and mark those so everything can be entered into evidence. We have a big responsibility to make sure that everything is there when court starts."

Brown, a former student at Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky., enlisted because she "wanted to see a little bit of the world and further my education."

"I was more or less bored," she said. "...I had a good job, I was working at the power company, making nice money, but I wanted to get out of Pikeville."

Brown got her first taste of the legal field when she reported on board the *USS L.Y. Spear*, a submarine repair ship.

"I have to mark all the exhibits that the trial counsel or defense counsel might bring into evidence ... We have a big responsibility to make sure that everything is there when court starts."

"When I got to my ship, they put me in legal because they were short of legalmen," she said. "I just really enjoyed typing wills, processing claims, powers-of-attorney and performing duties pertaining to legal."

While there are no courts aboard a ship, the legalman's duties at sea are more varied, Brown said. On shore, a legal office is usually comprised of several separate work sections. At sea, she said, a legalman handles a little bit of everything.

Brown recalled feeling somewhat intimidated during her first case after arriving at Norfolk.

"Because the captain (judge) is sitting right beside me ... I've got to make sure everything goes right," she explained.

Brown said she likes court reporting because it gives her experience that is valuable in the paralegal field.

"But what I think I enjoy most is customer service," she said. "I never get to the point where I get tired of seeing people's faces ... I enjoy helping people."◆



Brown reviews her notes before going over the proceedings on the transcriber.

Navy

Legalman

Description — Performs administrative and clerical tasks necessary to process claims, conduct court and administrative hearings and maintain records, documents and legal reference libraries.

Helpful background skills — Typing, English and composition; an ability to speak clearly and distinctly and to work well with people.

School — Nine weeks at the Naval Justice School, Newport, R.I.

Related civilian jobs — Law librarian, law clerk, court reporter, chief clerk and stenotype operator.

'Dose'ing it out

This pharmacist's got the right prescription

By **Sergeant Jeff Landis**

If you ever wanted to get a professional opinion about drugs, First Lieutenant Connie McCormick is one of the most informed sources you could ever run into.

McCormick is a pharmacist.

As such, she's surrounded by a myriad of medications designed to aid patients. Hydrocortisone, motrin, codeine, aspirin, bacetracin

— they're all here, along with many others. But McCormick's job involves more than just dispensing drugs. She also dispenses advice.

"A lot of people don't understand pharmacy," McCormick conceded. "They think it's just dispensing of medication."

McCormick said she enjoys the "patient interaction" aspect of her job the most.

"I like to look at each patient and counsel them, providing them with

a professional opinion," she said.

McCormick explained that some people may be taking as many as 15 medications at the same time. Her job involves evaluating patient allergies as they relate to dosage levels, checking prescribed medications and working with other health care providers when drug substitutions are necessary. Along with those tasks, she supervises a staff of enlisted pharmaceutical specialists and works hand-in-hand



First Lieutenant Connie McCormick confers with Senior Airman Cynthia Glosser about the dosage on a prescription.

Photos by Sergeant D. Townsend Wrenn

Officer Profile

Name — 1st Lieutenant Connie A. McCormick
Duty title — Officer In Charge, In-patient Pharmacy, 1st Medical Group, Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Birthdate — July 19, 1967

Hometown — Marshfield, Wis.

High School — Marshfield Senior High School

College — University of Wisconsin Center, Marshfield, 2 years; University of Wisconsin at Madison, 3 years

Major — Pharmacy

Marital status — Married to Air Force Captain Thomas D. McCormick.

Reason for joining the Air Force — "To be able to expand myself professionally as a pharmacist. In the Air Force you are able to learn many things early in your career and perform those things. You are put into leadership roles."

Favorite aspect of the Air Force — "The Air Force is very supportive of the person as a professional. Every year they allow you to go to continuing education to keep current on your license and the latest information."

Least favorite aspect of the Air Force — "Being recalled at 4 or 5 a.m. for an exercise, although I realize this is necessary to prepare yourself for the main mission of readiness."

Dream assignment — "My first choice of assignment was Langley AFB. Now I would like to be stationed in Europe."

Proudest moment in the Air Force — "When I wrote my first Air Force Commendation Medal for a staff sergeant who worked with me in the in-patient pharmacy and it was approved."

Favorite TV show — *Martin*

Favorite movie — *Thelma and Louise*; late 30's to early 50's black and white classics

Favorite book — *Wuthering Heights*

Ideal vacation — "Travel across Europe for about a month learning all the history."



Hobbies — Aerobics and running

Last smart thing you did — "Married my husband."

Last dumb thing you did — "Argued with my husband's friend over a movie. We had opposite opinions and it was a no win situation."

Career goal — Would like to get a doctorate in pharmacy and work in clinical pharmacy.

If you had 15 minutes on national television, what would you say? — "I would talk about how I believe in equality of all people based on what a person has to offer and not on things such as age, race or sex. I believe everyone should have the opportunity to get ahead and receive all opportunities, especially an education."

with American Red Cross volunteers who are directly involved in filling prescriptions.

It may sound like a lot to handle, but McCormick isn't fazed.

"I feel like I'm good at what I do," she said, with an air of quiet confidence.

McCormick credits the Air Force for giving her the chance to develop professionally.

"The Air Force has taught me many different aspects of pharmacy and allowed me to do many things," McCormick said, specifically citing the amount of responsibility she has, personnel management

opportunities and the chance to continue her pharmaceutical education as some of the main advantages of being a military medical professional. She plans to earn her doctorate in pharmacy while she's in the military.

McCormick, formerly officer in charge of the 1st Medical Group's in-patient pharmacy services at Langley Air Force Base, Va., is currently winging her way to her next assignment at Fairchild AFB, Wash.

The location and the patients' names will be different. But the job of providing good advice will remain the same. ♦

Someone to do the *Dirty* Work

Story and photo
by Sergeant D. Townsend Wrenn

He doesn't wear shoulder pads and cleats, but when it comes to doing the "dirty jobs," Specialist Brian Hennessy is likely to be toughing it out in the trenches long after the most relentless of National Football League linemen has called it a day.

Hennessy is a combat engineer, the Army's version of the unheralded offensive lineman. Glamour isn't part of the job.

Combat engineers keep the infantry on the move. Their tasks range from clearing mines and performing search and destroy missions for enemy weapons and equipment to digging fortifications and breaching berms.

Hennessy, a 21-year-old native of Northampton, Mass., got a taste of how important his job was when he deployed to the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm.

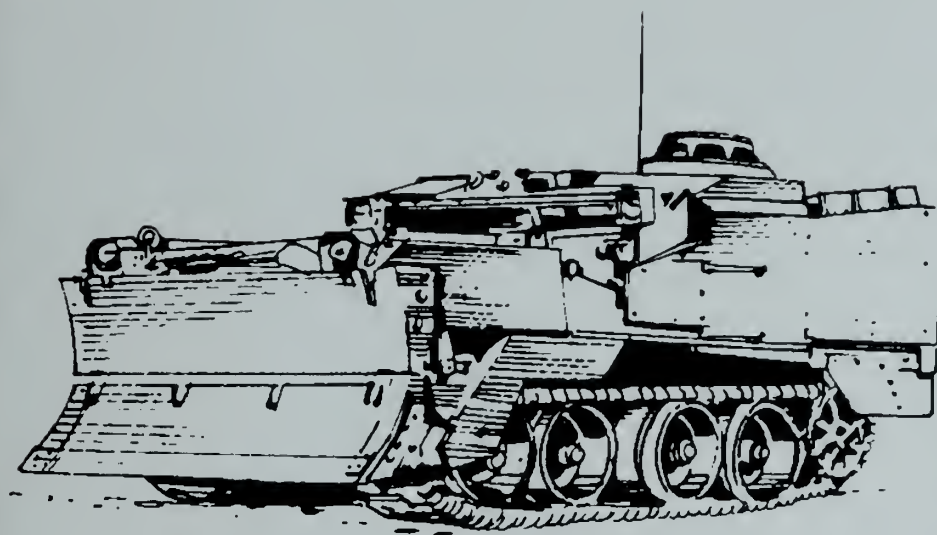
The day the ground war began, Hennessy's unit was scheduled to breach a berm so several units could move into Iraq.

"We started receiving artillery (fire) just as we were going across the berm," Hennessy recalled. "I think about a dozen shells landed without hitting any of our vehicles."

Army tanks in front of Hennessy's unit took out the Iraqi artillery unit.

"We then passed the tanks and set up and started clearing the trenches," Hennessy said. Then, the tanks moved up and the combat engineers went to work clearing the next obstacle. The tankers and the engineers seesawed in that fashion all the way into Iraq.

Perhaps the trickiest obstacles Hennessy and the other engineers tackled were mines.



"We would walk through looking for the signs of mines, like lumps in the sand or wires sticking up," Hennessy said. "Another way we'd look for them was by rolling a track (armored vehicle) with a wheel out in front of it through an area. If the wheel would hit a mine, it was far enough out in front that it wouldn't damage the track."

By the second day of the ground war, Hennessy's unit had made a major step forward in their mine clearing operations, thanks to the surrender of a high-ranking Iraqi official who had turned over a book containing the basic layouts of the Iraqi minefields. Once the unit had located about a dozen of the mines, Hennessy said, they were able to compare the pattern they had uncovered to the pattern in the book to determine the locations of the others.

The significance of what the engineers were able to do wasn't lost on the soldiers who relied on them either, Hennessy said.

"When we were out in the desert, when the other soldiers saw us coming they knew what that

meant," he said. "They were lucky to get us."

And, if the historical record is any indication, it would be safe to say they were especially lucky to have Hennessy. One day, while digging up earth to help fortify a tank unit, the engineers and tankers began taking enemy artillery fire. While several of the tanks and engineers sought cover, Hennessy and his boss kept digging.

"A round hit one of the tanks that remained to give us cover," Hennessy said. "We went over and pulled the guys out of the tank and went back to digging."

Hennessy said he felt he was simply doing his job. The Army thought he did more than that. Hennessy received the Bronze Star Medal for Valor as a result.

As Hennessy says, "Engineers are not the most glamorous unit to be in; we're not Special Forces or Rangers or anything like that."

But Hennessy's Bronze Star is proof that those who do the "dirty work" don't go unnoticed — especially by those whose lives depend on them. ♦



Specialist Brian Hennessy

Army

Combat Engineer

Description — Constructs, repairs and maintains roads, fixed bridges, port facilities, pipe lines, storage tanks and related facilities. Performs as a team leader and supervisor in construction and demolition.

Helpful background skills Mathematical reasoning ability, auto mechanics, carpentry, wood-working, drawing and drafting courses.

School — Thirteen weeks at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Related civilian jobs — Construction worker/supervisor, heavy equipment operator, drafter, rigger, bridge repairer, lumber worker and blaster.

BackTalk

Each month, **PROFILE** solicits comments and opinions from its readers about topics and issues relating to the military. This month, **PROFILE** visited a shopping mall in Norfolk, Va., and asked:

What do you think about the U.S. military's expanded humanitarian assistance role, nationally and internationally?

FLARE



Christina M. McCabe, 16, Junior, Norview High School, Norfolk, Va.

"I think we need to help them, because obviously they can't help themselves. In the same sense, we have many problems we have to take care of ourselves."



Shawn C. Canter, 17, Junior, Bayside High School, Virginia Beach, Va.

"Yeah, I think it's good we can help them out and all, but we got problems here too."



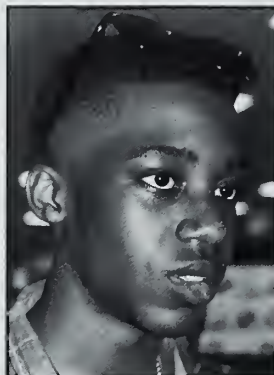
Jennifer A. San Diego, 20, Junior, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va.

"It's a good idea to help other people out like that. Actually, we should ... isn't that what we're here for? We're more fortunate than others, so we should be able to help."



Matt S. Lane, 16, Sophomore, Tallwood High School, Virginia Beach, Va.

"They should do more than just sit at an Army base and train. I think it's better to help people in our country and other countries."



Derrick R. Brumsey, 15, Sophomore, Green Run High School, Virginia Beach, Va.

"I think it's good that they're going to Somalia to help them out and give them food. About Hurricane Andrew, I think it's good they helped out and provided them with their needs."



Michelle M. Spittle, 14, Freshman, Northern High School, Calvert County, Md.

"I think it's good that we can provide those types of services to them and that we have the people that can help. I'm sure that if we needed help, I'd want them to come help us."

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